

a light beam restricting unit shaping the light beams from the laser diodes through the coupling lenses so that the light beams have a given spot size, the light beam restricting unit being positioned close to the point;

a polygonal mirror; and

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Cont a scan lens causing the light beams reflected by the polygonal mirror to form images on a scanned surface, wherein said light beam restricting unit is situated between said light source and said polygonal mirror to shape the light beams before the light beams enter said scan lens that forms the images.

2. (Amended) A multibeam scan apparatus comprising:

a light source having semiconductor laser diodes and coupling lenses arranged in a main scan direction, the semiconductor laser diodes being positioned so that light beams emitted by the semiconductor laser diodes substantially cross each other at a point;

a light beam restricting unit shaping the light beams from the laser diodes through the coupling lenses so that the light beams have a given spot size, the light beam restricting unit being positioned close to the point;

a polygonal mirror; and

a scan lens causing the light beams reflected by the polygonal mirror to form images on a scanned surface;

wherein:

12 the light beam restricting unit is incorporated into each of reflection surfaces of the polygonal mirror; and

15 the spot size of the light beams incident to the polygonal mirror is larger than a size of each of the reflection surfaces in at least the main scan direction.

B2 9. (Twice Amended) A multibeam scan apparatus comprising:

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a light source emitting light beams, outgoing beam directions in which the light beams travel being arranged so as to cross each other at a point;

a deflection unit deflecting the light beams;

an optical unit causing the light beams from the deflection unit to form images on a scanned surface; and

an aperture situated close to said point and arranged to shape the light beams, wherein said aperture is situated between said light source and said deflection unit to shape the light beams before the light beams enter said optical unit that forms the images.

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11. (Amended) The multibeam scan apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said aperture shapes the light beams so as to have a given spot size, the aperture being positioned close to said position.

13. (Amended) The multibeam scan apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said aperture shapes the light beams so as to have a given spot size, the aperture being positioned close to a position at which the light beams cross each other.

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14. (Amended) The multibeam scan apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the aperture is incorporated into deflection surfaces of the deflection unit, and the given spot size of the light beams is larger than a size of each of the deflection surfaces.

15. (Amended) The multibeam scan apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the aperture is incorporated into deflection surfaces of the deflection unit, and the given spot size of the light beams is larger than a size of each of the deflection surfaces.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the following comments and as presently amended, is respectfully requested.